



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 1/22/2023

***Third Sunday After the Epiphany***

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

**Prelude:** Improvisation on “Like a Tree Beside the Waters”

**Welcome**

**Words for Centering** Matthew 7:7-8 (NRSVUE)

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds,  
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

**\*Hymn of Celebration:** Red Hymnal #475 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

**\*Invocation** (Unison)

(by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ)

*Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us  
and the ways you connect us as a community.*

*Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world.*

*Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility.*

*We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly,  
gathered across time and space as your people.*

*We seek you. We're grateful when we find you. Amen.*

**Welcoming New Members**

Pastor: Let us, the members of the Congregational Church of Austin, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to the risen Christ.**

**Listening To the Sacred Text:** John 1:34-42

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

*Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.*

**Reflecting:** “What Are You Looking For?”

Poetry selections: “The Invitation” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

“The Guest House” by Jelaluddin Rumi

“Just Beyond Yourself” by David Whyte

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal #476 “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

**\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life** (by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, United Church of Christ)

Leader: What are you seeking? What are you looking for?

Deep down, what do you need? Deep down, what do we need?

*[We will allow a few moments for members of the congregation to respond by saying a word or phrase in response to these questions.]*

**People: This seeking is a blessing. This looking is the calling. This needing is the epiphany.**

**All: So let us go forth to continue to discover how we become liberation together. Amen.**

**Offering invitation**

Offertory Music: Rondino on a Theme by Beethoven

F. Kreisler

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *All Creatures Of Our God and King*)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Announcements**

**\*Sending Song:** Black Hymnal #539 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** Tango

M. Elman

***\* Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.***

**Leading In Today’s Service:**

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Jaime Hadley, Usher

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

CJ Wood, liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin